

CLAIMS:

1. An apparatus for streaming real time data from a storage medium containing layered coding formats, the apparatus comprising:

- a selection means, and
- a data readout device;

5 - the selection means being arranged to receive from one or more applications commands initiating at least two data streams and indicating a demanded resolution, to retrieve information regarding coding formats available on said storage medium and regarding maximum read-out data rate supported by the data readout device, to select a compression format for each data stream on the basis of said received initiating commands,
10 and said retrieved coding format information, so that the sum of data streams does not exceed said maximum read-out data rate, and to send a streaming request corresponding to said selected compression formats; and
- the data readout device being arranged to receive said streaming request from said selection means, to read out data from said storage medium and to output corresponding
15 data streams according to said request.

2. An apparatus according to claim 1,
characterized in that said selection means is arranged to access a predetermined priority
information of said applications and selects said compression format further according to said
20 predetermined priority information.

3. An apparatus according to claim 1,
characterized in that said selection means is arranged to interpret a tag carried by each of said
initiating commands indicating a level of priority and selects said compression format further
25 according to said level of priority.

4. An apparatus according to claim 1,
characterized in that said selection means is arranged to check available system resources and
to select said compression format further taking into account said system resources.

5. An apparatus according to claim 1,
characterized in that said selection means comprises means arranged to reduce said maximum
read out data rate by a value taking into account a processing time said data readout device
5 requires for switching between the accesses to said at least two data streams, and to provide
the result for said selection.

6. Method for streaming real time data from a storage medium containing layered
coding formats, the method comprising the steps:

- 10 - receiving from one or more applications commands initiating at least two data
streams and indicating a demanded resolution;
- retrieving information regarding coding formats available on said storage
medium and regarding maximum read-out data rate supported by a data readout device;
- selecting a compression format for each data stream on the basis of said
15 received commands, and said retrieved coding format information, so that the sum of data
streams does not exceed said maximum read-out data rate; and
- sending streaming requests corresponding to said selected compression
formats to said data readout device.

20 7. Method according to claim 6,
characterized in that said selection is executed according to a predetermined priority of said
applications.

8. Method according to claim 6,
25 characterized in that each of said initiating commands carries a tag indicating a level of
priority and said selection is executed according to said level of priority indicated by said tag.

9. Method according to claim 6,
characterized in that it comprises the step checking available system resources and said
30 selection further takes into account said system resources.

10. Method according to claim 6,
characterized in that it comprises the steps reducing said maximum read out data rate by a
value taking into account a processing time said data readout device requires for switching

between the accesses to said at least two data streams, and providing the result for said selection.